

REMARKS

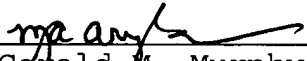
Claims 1, 8, 10-13, 26-35 and 38-39 are pending in this application. Claims 2-7, 9, 14-25 and 36-37 have been canceled. Claims 38-39 have been added. No new matter has been added with the above amendments to the claims. As such, entry and consideration thereof are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact MaryAnne Armstrong (Reg. No. 40,069) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
Gerald M. Murphy, Jr., #28,977

MaryAnne Armstrong, PhD, #40,069

GMM/MAA  
2815-0253P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000